

SAWYER CORRESPONDENCE

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Illinois Decatur

Sawyer Correspondence

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



BUCKEYE BOOKS
ARE BETTER

OLD — ODD — CURIOUS — RARE

BUCKEYE BOOKS

36 EAST MAIN STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO

8-16-33



Dr Louis A Warren
Editor Lincoln Lore
Ft Wayne Ind

Dear Dr Warren:

I note with interest your reference in LINCOLN LORE #227 to Lincoln's residence 10 miles west of Decatur. When a boy, in the 90's, Lafayette Whitley owned and occupied the original Lincoln homesite. My parents exchanged visits with the Whitleys. I was shown the spot which tradition said was the site of the Lincoln cabin, and Mr Whitley expressed the belief that there were walnut rails and posts on the place that Abe himself had cut.

At the Sangamon crossing (ford) between the Senator Thomas Moffett land and the Whitley (Lincoln) land was the "Old Lincoln Mill Dam." Many posts still protruded above the water, and tradition had it that Abe himself helped cut, hew and sink the posts. This was common knowledge according to the Old Timers. The river was swollen. I went in with the boys, but couldn't swim. The water being cold (July or August) I got cramps in my limbs and would have gone down in the midst of Abe's posts had not a farm-hand, John Strickland, rescued me.

The Lincolns had the Ira Warnocks for neighbors. Ira Warnock, I believe, was Macon County's first sheriff. As I may have possibly written to you before, Robert Warnock (Ira's son) stretched a clothes line and knocked Abe's hat off on the occasion of Abe's visit to spark one of his sisters. Robert, when quite an old man (65 or so) summered at our home where he tended a stallion. He was a great Horse Man and a typical story teller of the Old School - told his reminiscences and stories yesterday, today, tomorrow and forever. In later years (around 1900 to possibly 1910 or later) he made his home with his daughter, Mrs Fred Meyers, Blue Mound, Ill.

Mrs Myers could still be living at about 80 or 85. I saw Fred 2 years ago when back in the Old Home Town (Blue Mound).


You should run over to Decatur some day and get mother to show you where Lincoln addressed an audience in a little natural amphitheatre "just back of the site of Tom Doak's old livery stable and feed barn." I cannot recall the name of the street now, as it was not a street when I was a boy. Mother resides at 1354 West Macon. The amphitheatre (two modest knolls) would make interesting matter in picture and print.

D B DILLEHUNT

c. c. to Frank E Sawyer RFD#7 Decatur Ill.

FRANK: Tell Dr Warren How Many Million canes Johnny Hanks worked out of Abe's Rails - or was it Billions?

THE FIELD FORCE FIXER

"On the Go"  "On the Grow"

Frank Sawyer - RFD#7 - Decatur Ill

1-1-35

I am happy to learn that you like the "Lincoln Mystic 7" item and will place it with your other Lincolniana.

You say the State Highway Department is placing markers along the "supposed" Lincoln route, Indiana to Springfield - over Route 10 from Decatur to Springfield which I understand to be the new macadam road north of the Sangamon, crossing that stream at Riverton. I can't blame the south-side Sangamonites for tummy-aching. I doubt if Abe Lincoln traveled a route north of the Sangamon between Decatur and Springfield. "The Old Springfield Road," as I was always informed, ran southwest out of Decatur, under the Wabash River bridge, on to Salem Chapel and Smith's Blacksmithshop, on west past the Robert Huddleson home (the old Lincoln Tavern) and on westward through the Senator Thomas Heffett land (settlement) near Madison Church, and for the most part, wended its way most south of the Sangamon to Springfield.

Thomas Lincoln may have erected a cabin in Harriestown Township, said land now the property of Jim Whitley the lawyer and planned to be sold as a Park, but Jim Whitley would buy the Poor Farm northeast of Decatur and the head of the Sangamon River if he could connect Lincoln therewith and cash out on a Lincoln Park project. And Jim's all right, too. He looks out for Jim.

Ida Tarbell covered the ground back in the 90's, I believe, and wrote a Lincoln series for McClure's Magazine, later in book form, and her research carried her largely to the south of the Sangamon, down in the Hoody country. Uncle Robert Warneck was still living - his father, Ira Warneck, had been Macon County's first sheriff, and the Warnecks and the Lincolns had been pioneer neighbors. The Warnecks, as I recall, always lived on the south side of the Sangamon. As a boy, I heard "Uncle Robert" relate how Abe came to spark one of his sisters and how he, Robert, stretched a line and knocked Abe's "tepper" off. The Austins, Warnecks, Taylors, Browns, Stevens and other early families knew the "Lincoln Trail" and their descendants would tell you today that Abe Lincoln's route was largely on the Sangamon's South Side.

More than once I had pointed out to me the site of Thomas Lincoln's cabin on the Lafayette (Lafe) Whitley farm on the banks of the Sangamon, some 6 or 7 miles west of Decatur - the Lincoln Hillside was situated there, and the posts still visible in the 90's - old timers told how Abe himself helped how the posts and poles and build the dam. I tried to drown in the midst of the posts and collected rubbish, when fishing at the spot. My guess is that Lincoln used a south route between Springfield and Decatur, perhaps the only surveyed and constructed highway between those cities in the 30's and 40's. If Thomas Lincoln built a cabin on the "Lafe" Whitley farm, it may have been his second cabin in Macon County, but I hear, as a boy, "Lincoln's life, adventures and anecdotes as related, over and over and over, by the Old Farmers who lived "up on the Lincoln Highway" - they loafed in Hoody and told the same stories 10,000 times a year. Men who, if living, could set you right on Lincoln and his Road: Senator Thomas Heffett, Sheriff Ira Warneck, his son Robert, the pioneer paternalists of the Browns, Austins, Stevens, Crosses, Leatherfords, Hills, Whitneys, Scroggins, et al. Wottonell has Macon County been doing all these years not to FIX the Lincoln Route between Decatur and Springfield? Tell them to brush up on Ida Tarbell. Lincoln defended and won a lawsuit for Grandfather Dillehunt about 1837-38 if I rightly remember. Grandfather went to Springfield. Father always referred to the "Springfield Road" as that on the south side of the Sangamon, later known as the Lincoln Road or Highway.

Yes, I recall the Smallwood "murder," and remember most of the Old timers you mention as passing on lately. Mark this, Warehouse & Walls will fail, maybe hurry up and sell out if they can - so will thousands of other 21, Firms, among them Ginn & Scroggs. 1933-34-35 are going to witness a complete new line-up of firms the country over - Chains, Departments, Consolidations, Syndicates and their kind will go the way - business will return to the individual and the Specialist, and Swap will not be uncommon. We now Swap books for farm produce - the first firm in Columbus to meet the bankrupt farmer on his own ground and give him the deal he's entitled to.

over

A large sign in our window reads "HEY, FARMERS - Books for Ham Eggs, Butter Sausage Cider Walnuts Kraut Honey Cheese - What Have You?" Why not? We both get what we want and need and don't pay tribute to a lot of Middle Men.

Your Moweaqua mine disaster (54 killed) was appalling. Don't suppose I knew any of the victims, though hauled coal from that mine when a boy and had a limited acquaintance in the town. The Taylorsville (Mineside) street riot yesterday (2 killed, 10 or 12 wounded) is a fore-runner of what may be taking place almost any place almost any day - seen. 30,000,000 people can't eat and starve always -

And Banks, Building & Loans, Life Insurance Companies, Trust Companies, Mortgage Companies and kindred institutions might well be trying to solve the question without further draining and exploiting the masses. As I see it, they have the Mortgages, the Money and the Means, and if they don't solve it, I fear the people will solve it for them. Even rivers go dry when streams fail to feed them, and this country cannot stand further wholesale ~~misdeeds~~ onslaught of the "Nothing-down-Now-and-All-You-Make-Always" class of speculators.

Farming (as farming) never produced but one Millionaire farmer, David Rankin of Mo. Land speculation and Labor-exploitation has made thousands of them. That time is in the last days - it will be against the law, in fact a disgrace, to be reckoned a Millionaire in the near future - perhaps more than 100 of this class have destroyed themselves the past 2 or 3 years - Justice came home to Roost, as it always did and always will. Bandit, Pirate, Gangster, Safe-Blower, House-breaker or Legalized Business Exploiter, the time comes to all, and you will marvel at the Exodus or the Extinction of the "Impregnable" during 1933-34-35. No, Technocracy won't solve it - already Big Business is seeking to get control of it, happy to have the mass on work 4 hours a day, live on the "electric dollar," and have 20 hours in which to Gad and Gab and give it's 4 hours of industry BACK. The masses have already had too much Spare Time in which to PLAY - you can't build Thrift on Idle Hours. BIG BUSINESS will do well to step out from under its High Hat, help the farmer, the laborer and the small merchant - actually Reciprocate a little and prove its Neighborliness and Human Decency.

Brother Sunn works in the big light plant in Mineside, where the riot took place yesterday. There is a Modern Sample of Frenzied Finance. The Peabody Coal Co (an Insult off-spring) built this new town 16 years ago, sunk the mine, built the plant that lights "seven states" and exploited everybody and everything. Two years ago they said, "Sunn, want to keep your job?" "Sure, I have to work and support a family." "All right, buy \$780 worth of Mister Insult's stock. He bought. Thousands bought. Last summer he paid in his last \$20 knowing his stock wasn't worth 20 cents and likely never will be.

It's Pitiful when Big Business gets to the point that it has to Exploit its own hired servants - when a man is compelled to be a Sucker against his own good judgment in order to support his family. Dam 'em, I say, and I'm thinking of a Whale of a Line-up when I say it. Lulu buried his wife last week, thanks to Bad Health aggravated by the Lies, Threats and Disappointments of a Big Bully Employer. And Greece wouldn't give one of our Arch Criminals up. All right, I favor shipping back 28 shiploads of Greece's criminals - for the good of the American restaurant, confection and shoe shine business.

Had a nice long letter from Mother this morning - 86 years of age, and writes a better hand than most of us. Drop by and see her occasionally at 1864 West Mason. Regards to Uncle Ben and everybody else.

D A BILLENMONT
BUCKEYE BOOKS
35 EAST MAIN

As I may have told you, I am still on crutches, due to skidding on a Magazine, twisting a knee and dislocating a foot bone - have a stiff bent knee, but hope to be going strong again before Spring. Business just fairly good.

1-6-33

Frank E Sawyer - RFD#7 - Decatur Ill - Dear Frank:

As I have about given up hopes of ever writing a Lincoln Book, 3,797 others having beaten me to the honor (and profits?), I am passing your letter on to Dr Louis Warren at Ft Wayne, knowing that he will enjoy Attorney D C Corley's little Lincoln Story. When I was "stenoging" for DC back in 1900 I did not suspect that he had ever had any Lincoln contact.

That "fake" picture of Lincoln with Johnny Hanks posed in front of a Log Cabin may be Jim Shoaf, Tom Shoaf's father, but it's one of the best pictures of Lincoln ever, even through a strong reading glass, and is clearly a picture-man's trick, substituting Lincoln (long coat, plug hat and all) for Dennis Hanks in the Johnny and Dennis Hanks Log Cabin picture in the hands of one of the Shoafs at Springfield. It is in Holland's Life of Lincoln. I note that the custodian of the Lincoln Monument calls it a fake insert. Poor Abe, how they juggled him, how they still love to distort him!

This is my first knowledge of Jim Shoaf and his "Decatur Magnet." Several years ago, when passing through Shelbyville with brother Bert, he introduced me to a Shoaf, then editor of a little Shelbyville paper located "on the square" facing the Lincoln Memorial. He was a true blue Lincoln Fan, dropped his type and everything and would be talking Honest Abe yet, but we had to hurry on to Kimmunity for a load of apples.

Reading your letter again, I note that Corley's story is that of Banker Jim Millikin, related to himself. I had never heard that Mr Millikin was a whiskey drinker, but I suppose he had to be - in his day. I knew that everyone connected with his bank drank, most of them heavily, and had pictured him as a forgiving Old Man who tolerated his Best Men for their boozing. So the Millikin University was founded on Booze-earned Boodle, eh? I know one thing - father could borrow \$1,000, \$2,000 or \$3,000 from Jim Millikin without as much as a pen-scratch - he loved Dad, and had exceeding great confidence in his word of honor. They probably drank good whiskey and played cards together. Try and borrow \$10 from a bank today, and see what becomes of your Immortal Soul. Most banks should mount Three Big Brassy Balls over the front door.

Speaking of Millikin reminds me that the Rev Miller was found "murdered" in West William Street, almost opposite Grandma Dillehunt's home. I was living with her, doing chorse, and going to Business College. You were one of the Business College Guys, too. They got out the bloodhounds, and they scented the "vicious murderer" to a Big Bush in Millikin's big homestead between Prairie and West Main - THREE TIMES. I know, for I followed the Crowd and the Dogs. I had apprehensions lest they find that Banker Jim Millikin actually murdered Rev Miller. It was soon established that Miller killed himself, and had scattered

—a toast to your Health and Happiness: FRUNUTTA (the Only and Original) is nothing else BUT—
—we eat it, ourselves, three times a day, and Between—

The Frunutta Company

(Copyright 1928)

COLUMBUS, OHIO



Currents could make FRUNUTTA bulkier—
Maraschino Cherries make it prettier—
Peanuts and Coconut make it "cheaper"—
Chocolate glaze (and all) make it costlier—

BUT, we have never found FRUNUTTA to be more Delicious
or Beneficial than when made of

Just ARABIAN DELICIOUSA DATES.....
DELTA UNSULPHURED FIGS.....
CALIFORNIA SUNSWEET RAISINS.....
DIXIE SWEET-MEAT PECANS.....

Frunutta Loaf

FOR

Sandwiches—
Bran Gems—
Fruit Salads—
Whole Wheat
Muffins—
Stuffed Baked
Apples—
Breakfast Foods—
Puddings—
Ice Cream—
Gelatin Desserts—
Between-Bites, Etc.

Kandy for
the Kiddies
As It Is—

Ready for
SLICING—
CHIPPING—
MINCING—
CUBING—

Ideal for
PARTIES—
PICNICS—
CIRCLES—
CLUBS—
OUTINGS—
TRIPS—

Keeps for weeks
—if you let it

his watch, charms, puppets, etc., up and down
West William St. to make it appear that he had
been robbed and murdered. Poor old Sky Pilot
after all, they're pretty human, too. I had to
laugh at those dogs cover the same trail out
William and Prairie and into Millkin's big estate
and come to a stop at that Big Bush - I think
they were scenting another Dog, perhaps.

Come again, when you get a New Lincoln Story.
Genuine or bogus, I like to hear them. I have
an old double-compartment grip (satchel affair)
that an old man (age 76) brought in last summer.
It has Lincoln's picture pasted in and his name
scribbled in it. He swore that Abe gave his father
the grip in, say, 1852, when buying himself a new one.
I suspected the grip of being of an 1880 vintage
(modern hardware and lock) and that was Dr. Warren's
guess. The old fellow was in the hospital all last winter
and has likely Gone West as we have not seen him for a year.

If you have \$10,000 that you care to invest in a
Lincoln Satchel (not a Carpet Bag) come on along.

D B

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is the World's purest, safest and most satisfying Food-Confection—no Starches, Sugars or Syrups used in
its preparation—it is Bone, Blood and Brain-Building in iron, calcium, cellulose, carbohydrates, vitamins—
actively alkaliescent—no decayed teeth—no disturbed digestion—for Energy, Strength, Vitality, Pep, eat FRUNUTTA LOAF
every day (we do)—tell your friends about it—it's the World's champion Long-distance stabilizer, and satisfies that High-priced
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builds you up, keeps you Well, makes you Tell—

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3
R1 - Doctor. Dec. 11/8/33.

Stan Zee. I enclose a page from Herald containing Bert Dillehuets letter. He makes a good case. It shows his connection with you in the make-up of the article.

Read Sam Tucker also on Joe Fifer.

Many around these parts think the R N A or R N A or what is it is doomed as far as miracle work is concerned and that Johnson will admit it after he has been all the way around.

I think it has done much good it has taken peoples mind off their own troubles which time alone can cure - and they have arrived at the conclusion that war prices will not come again.

You usually try to quiet a crying baby by making more noise than he is making.

No farm strike is thought of here. The Govt is loaning much money and fear of foreclosure is gone as far as farmers are concerned. There will be many to fail but we always had such. I am not prepared to agree with those who say this Govt is doomed. But I do expect many of the present remedies to fail but the present promise to drop any one of them so I look for a large scrap heap later.

Your memory of James Mulliken is like mine.
He was a shrewd judge of human nature
and one of the best mixers & eaters ever had.
When I was toy collector in 1900-01 I held
office on Saturday in Mulliken Bank and one day
Uncle Elias Packard came in and sat down for a
talk - Mr Mulliken came back and sat down ^{and}
later an aged bewhiskered, bebooted gentleman
from out Mt Zion way came in and joined the
crowd. Conversation rolled - Whiskers
took out his hawkbill knife and plug and
cut off a chew - Mulliken reached over
and took plug & knife and took a chew -
handed back plug & knife without comment.
Shortly after Mulliken and Whiskers walked to
front - then Packard said "Frank did you see
that?" - I said "yes" - then he said "Jim
Mulliken makes thousands each year
chewing other peoples tobacco - You couldn't
get that old codger to remove his account
from this bank with a yoke of oxen". He got
the idea firmly fixed in his mind that Mulliken
did not feel about him. I am glad he could
enjoy a snort of good whiskey or a friendly
game of poker - It certainly did not dent
his bank roll -

He bought some cats and dogs like others.
His estate owned 100,000 [#] per value of some
Louisiana Irrigation Co Bonds and large
acreage of Florida orange groves which
were rendered worthless by freezing. The estate

may have unloaded the groves during the celebrated Florida boom but I bet they still have the bones, if Wiggins didn't see them for the estate.

Two old settlers will soon be a memory. Mrs Henrietta Mowry - aged 84 - will be buried tomorrow - came to Macon Co 1856 - lived near here ever since - She knew your father and uncles and aunts well in the old days - I have heard her talk about your people.

You heard your dad speak of Brett who lived near old Deekbunt farm since 1836. The last one of the older ones - David Elliott Brett is near the end of his march - aged 74

He told me many interesting stories of the Sudden Freeze in early Macon Co. History - his father David Brett lived and died on the same farm and site where the grandfather, Richard Brett, settled in 1836 from Virginia.

Deater papers has item of sale of a Lincoln chair made by the citizens of Macon County in 1860 and presented him - the wood came from the old cabin in Harrietstown &c. It is probably a near fake - or maybe the product of some obscure Lincoln supporter in the early days of the campaign - I saw read frequently of the multitude of gifts to presidents and thus

probably is such a one of genuine.

I am expecting the resurrection of that pair of knitted socks given Lincoln by Hannah Armstrong on eve of his departure for Washington after election. Nearly every thing else has come to life -

Over in the museum at old Salem is the hand auger used by L - to bore through that flat boat stuck on Rutledge Dam also a full dressed doll given a local little girl upon L -'s return from Vandalia and first possession of Legislature -

The dedication was quite an event. The cabins in the park were furnished and occupied by descendants of the original owners as far as was possible. This was for the day.

Many Deatur motorists are enroute to Southern Indiana & Kentucky to view fall foliage &c. Many go to Leesmans River bottoms - I see just as fine views daily on my way to Bowling Springs School where daughter teaches.

I pass old Johnny Hawks homestead daily - over paved road that crosses Stevens Creek at the place where Johnny's son Felix was drowned in high water of 1858. He was drunk and rode his horse off the bluff into the flood thinking he was at the ford. All marks were flood covered and both horse & rider were drowned. Henry Trimmer dived off the bluff and found Hawks entangled in a thorn bush on creek bank.

My father said the only fault or failing Johnny Hanks had was getting drunk occasionally.

Local historians say Johnny could spit with greatest accuracy at cracks, knot holes, and old fashioned spit boxes. In a crowd of tobacco eaters his skill must have been remarkable for the memory of it its survival until today.

My Shelbyville friend was Tom Shooff. He visited Decatur frequently - was a great Democrat and much disappointed in not being appointed Postmaster at Shelbyville in 1912. He used to attend Hanks Reunion here. On one occasion his aunt - a daughter of Dennis Hanks - attended from Missouri - she was very old - and had been a domestic and seamstress in Abraham Lincoln's home in Springfield - she said she received an annuity from Robt. T. Lincoln. So far as is locally known she is the only Hanks tolerated by Mrs. Lincoln, and she must have captivated the son Robert also. I do not recall her name but she was a widow at time of her visit to Decatur.

I put up squarely to Mrs. Mary E. Manon - the surviving daughter of Johnny Hanks - the question of her father or any of her family visiting Lincoln at Salem or Springfield - Her reply was - her father ^{visited} Lincoln at the White House. Nothing was ever admitted of any visit by Hanks family to Lincoln family on ^{such place}

nor of Mrs. Lincoln or children to Hawks family here - Mr Lincoln came many times but no record of any one else. Nor did many others from Decatur visit him at his home.

He succeeded in keeping his home free from politicians until near 1858. Will, who cared to take a bunch of booze guzzling, tobaccoer chewing, muddy booted, swearing, political jay hawkers into his home.²

Will Ben - Is long until tomorrow (Lowell Thomas)

Sawyer

11-9-33

Frank Sawyer RFD 7 Decatur Ill - Dear Frank:

Your letter of the 8th I have read with much interest and am also passing along to Dr Warren - you are a Lincoln Librarian and a Hanks Historian, and with corn yielding 9 bushels to the acre, perhaps the Doctor will give you an appointment on his Lincoln staff. Methinks sometimes that the noble spirit of Homely Abe smiles piteously down upon our efforts at Hero-worship, and the far-fetched schemes to connect him with any and everything between Decatur and Springfield. I daresay that the residue of the old Warnock family may still own the clothes-line that knocked Abe's hat off the night he called on the Warnock girl back in the 30's, but the Warnocks were never the capitalizers that the Hanks were.

Brother Bert's letter in the Herald is typically Dillehunt - out-spoken, frank, stubborn to a T-Y-ty. He sees the Joker in this Farm Relief Guff, and Big Business is not going to exploit the farmers of the future, Suckers that they have been the past 40-50 years. If I had a dollar for every goodbig meal that my mother served to Big Business typified in the personages of Bankers, Manufacturers, Landed Gentry, High-brow Exploiters and High-pressure Salesmen, I could retire. They knew how to bum a Bed and a Breakfast, and at the same time Pick one's Pockets. "Let us take care of your money," was their plea. They took care of it all right, but this orgie of Millionaire Suicides finds no abatement - at last, we are all getting our chance to "clean up"----Million-dollar Musses following Skyscraper Suicides. Most banks should have Three Bright Balls out in front - some Life Insurance Companies, too. But I don't want to get into a debate with Dr Warren.

The trouble has been that Business (both Big and Small) has not been decently appreciative and cooperative in its attitude toward the farmer. Born on a farm, I have watched the farmer, for 45 years, Get Little for his wares, and Give Much for his needs - I have never seen Business patronize him unless it could trim him, and I have been hoping and praying for the time when he would spunk up and Start Something. A card in our window attracts considerable attention and comment:

THIS Little Firm PATRONIZES
ITS Customers--

CASH for your BOOKS, MAGS, SONGS

JUST WHEN DID "BIG BUSINESS"
LAST PATRONIZE YOU?

Another one reads:

HEY, FARMERS:

BOOKS FOR

Ham	Cider
Eggs	Walnuts
Butter	Kraut
Sausage	Blney
Cheese	

A Gangster steps in with a Gat and says: "Gimme de Cash Box." I "gimme" and more or less admire his nerve. BIG BUSINESS slips in, incognito, and seeks to get possession of a Rare Book for a Dime. I had two yesterday, one seeking First Editions, one Autographed Editions. Neither would reveal his name - nor his specific Want. Doubtless agents for some Big Shot, the kind that Prays for us on Sunday and Preys on us all week. I politely told them to come back when they had some specific Want in mind, that I did not make a practice of showing 700 first editions in ~~order~~ order to sell one, or None. I always did detest a Dam Snooper. I detest Politics for that reason - I did not even vote Tuesday. All I ever did was to vote some Good Man into office and make a Crook out of him, or vote a Crook in with whose record I was not familiar. I want Political Parties done away with - I want the Government to install officers on some sort of Merit and Ability plan, with the Recall working overtime until we get back to Civilization again. I want the Government to fix a Minimum Price for every Product on the farm, and take the Gamble out of the country's basic industry. Let business gamble, but make Farming 97% certain. This country will never know Prosperity and Peace until Wall Street, the Board of Trade and Hollywood are wiped out.

My recollection of the Bretts runs to George Brett who, with Uncle Ed Dillehunt, used to work in Dillehunt & Ferguson's Hardware store (Uncle Ben Dillehunt and Bill Ferguson, later Street Car "Maggot.") George and Ed at one time held the Illinois Roller-skating championship, perhaps the Three-I championship. They were Acrobatic Rollers. George was famous in the Sports World for his Muscles, Strength, Lifting, Skating, etc. They went to Chicago in the early 90s, skated down 20 stair-steps, flip-flopped, somersaulted, and swept the rink clear with their antics - first among the Trick Skaters. I often heard father speak of the elder Bretts.

NRA is losing its popularity locally also. Anything that limits BIG BUSINESS soon loses its popularity - the Farmer and the Working Man are still supposed to Carry the Load, do all the Spending, all the Buying, all the Losing. It's getting to be a Disgrace to be Rich, however, and with a few more Insults in Greece and a few more Kreugers in Hell, we may make a Country Safe for Democrats after all. We are making good progress, with 16 murders in Kentucky on election day, and a thousand or two broken skulls in New York. They say they have Tammany licked. I doubt it - Tammany puts up Three Candidates and lets you take your choice.

Adios hasta mañana -

D B

If you are not up on Spanish, that is "Goodbye Until Tomorrow."

November 13, 1933

Mr. Frank Sawyer
R. F. D. #7
Decatur, Illinois

My dear Mr. Sawyer:

Thank you very much for your second installment of Mason County History. I cannot tell you how interested I am in receiving these personal slants on the characters associated with Lincoln in the early days.

Your remark about life insurance with apology attached, I expect, comes from a lifetime of experience but inasmuch as I am a novice and know very little about the business, I would be able to put up a very poor defence.

You may feel sure I am always glad to hear from you.
Respectfully yours,

LAW:LH

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

RR1 - Decatur. Ill. Nov 14, 1933

Mr Louis A. Warren,

St Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr Warren - Your letter of 13th received.
I am pleased of my Hanks-Lincoln letters
to my friend D.B. Dillehunt reached you
and interested you.

I notice Lincoln Lane in letter head.
I would like to have a copy. Please send
me one.

I can furnish you with items on the
Hanks family here in my locality. Some
descendants still live here - particularly
James Hanks - brother of John - I pass
the old homestead of both John and
James Hanks daily - They settled here
1826-28. John lived out his life on the
farm where he first settled, James moved
away a short distance from first site
but died in this county.

Both men were pioneers in reality - hunters,
jack of all trades, John gained national
mention through association with Lincoln
James was a counterpart but failed to
connect with Lincoln.

Like D.B. Tillman my ancestors were
very early settlers in Mason County Illinois
and I am interested in the history of the
settlers and county.

Very Truly yours.

Frank E. Sawyer.

November 20, 1933

Mr. Frank E. Sawyer
R. R. 1
Decatur, Ill.

My dear Mr. Sawyer:

We will be very happy indeed to place your name on our mailing list for Lincoln Lore, the weekly publication of this Foundation. You will also receive under separate cover some back numbers of the publication which we think will be of interest to you.

We have here in our files the largest collection of Hanks family record gathered more than 30 years ago by one of the members of the family. It comprises over a thousand family records.

Thank you for your offer to assist in regard to the Hanks family in Lincoln County and when time permits I will check through and see what you have on the Hanks in your locality.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:EB

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

R1 - Decatur Dec. 1/20/35.

Dear Ben - I have solved most of your memory problems and enclose a few for you to bite on. You might try them on Bear if you think safe. That he whistled German bicycle dealers name was Paul Hecksch. his shop was on William St near DBC, if I remember correctly. He of course belonged to The Wheelman Club - I saw a ^{bicycle} race once - beginning at Eastman School, then north to Harrison Ave (Lawyers Lane) w to Walnut Grove (Oakland Ave) south to W. Main or Springfield Road and to Ditch, Trips over the course. I don't recall the winners name but I do recall the appearance of Butch Mueller late that afternoon after he umpired a ball game - somebody hit him in the eye and he wore a "beaut".

"Butch" Fred Mueller died a bachelor some seven years ago - left most of his wealth to a sister in law. That family had a quarrel and the once mutual interest is now divided; They divided territory and erected plants elsewhere - in Canada, California, Georgia and somewhere in the southwest. Their Decatur plant is not so important now. Not much doing at their N ^{College} Union St plant.

The mail has arrived and in it were three letters from the west coast - one from Walter Bear - one from a cousin Mrs Ina McTulley at Bakerfield - Calif. and the other from Mr. Dunham Wright - Medford Springs, Oregon. Bear set me on him - He typed a long letter to me - it is very unusual and if what he states is true much of

Lincoln's early history as we know it is incorrect.
He says Lincoln learned surveying from Wright -
that Lincoln went to Sangamon Co in 1830.
That William Hawks a bro of Nancy Hawks Lincoln
was this Wright's grand father.

That Wright laid out Decatur and dug maple
trees on Sangamon River and set them out all
round the old square. That this Wright named
Decatur.

That Lincoln went to Black Hawk war as captain
in 1832 - first going to Chicago to release the small
garrison there, - said Uncle John Hawks and
father was with Col Sherman when he was
driven into ambush and everybody killed
but 3.

It will be the job of some Lincoln fan to
sift the grain from the chaff in this Lincoln
data from Wright.

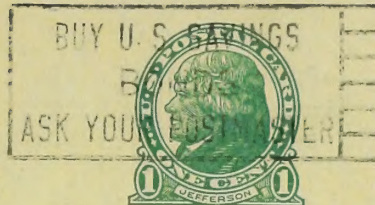
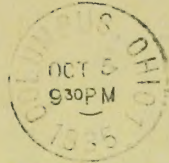
He writes of the many Hawks in the west.

Will Brew after you look over my Quercus Quercus
please report progress.

Colder today - near zero - slight snow fell last
night. Nothing new in Decatur among those
we know.

Very truly,

Saml. May.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr Louis A Warren
Lincoln Natl Life Ins Co
Ft Wayne Ind

Politically, I believe Frank is democratic.

Dr Warren: 10-5-35 F E Sawyer writes:

"You might send Dr Warren on a quest for that huge flag of 1858, carried in the Lincoln-Douglas debate campaign. It is owned by somebody in the Harristown-Niantic neighborhood (few miles west of Decatur). I had to hunt around quite a spell before I found a suitable place to display it. Finally hung it in Orlando Hotel lobby. It took 5 men to carry it, one to hold staff, four others to hold guide ropes, all on horseback; the flag was in good condition."

Frank is likely the only soul in Macon County who concerns himself with Abe, and who would step out and find that flag for you, within 15 miles of his residence. See if he minds the favor: F E Sawyer RD#7 Decatur Ill. (Frank's farm is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Forsyth which is 7 miles N of Dektr).

D B DILLEHUNT 36 EAST MAIN COLUMBUS O

Sorry the L-D Debates not right copy. This is only edition we have ever seen, and have been assured it is genuine 1st edition.

October 7, 1935

Mr. F. E. Sawyer
R. F. D. #7
Decatur, Illinois

My dear Mr. Sawyer:

Mr. Dillehunt has suggested that there is available somewhere in Decatur an old flag used in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate campaign of 1858.

I am wondering whether or not you could ascertain whether this flag is available and put us in touch with the parties who are in possession of it.

If you will give me the names of two or three people who might know of its location, I will be very glad to write to them about it.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation

October 7, 1935

Mr. D. B. Dillehunt
36 E. Main St.
Columbus, Ohio

My dear Mr. Dillehunt:

Thank you very much for putting us on the trail of the old flag at Decatur. Of course, we are very much interested in any item of that nature relating to Lincoln. I will immediately get in touch with Mr. Sawyer and see what he can do relative to locating it.

We regret indeed that we were not able to keep the Debates, but possibly you may run across an issue similar to some of the facsimiles which we are unable to acquire.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation

The doctor came to Macon Co from the East
with a license to practice medicine - he
taught in the Mt Zion Academy or
Seminary (The Athens of Macon Co) when
my father and my aunt and uncles
attended there in the 60's - It was
here he met Miss Mary Ellen Gulick as
a student and married her - she
was a daughter and an heir of the late
Levi Gulick who owned 400 acres
of north of Tugk Street & west of Water -
The doctor ^{later} opened a drug store - later a
book store - Then widened his activities
and went broke - "Old Doc Wallaw" was
the laughing stock of the town for a
generation. Maybe Sam Taits wife
inherited her restlessness from the
doctor. I was in closer contact with
the Wallaws by my grandfathers second
marriage to the widow of the above Levi Gulick

So the first Mrs A Wallace became a
step sister of my father so to speak - That
old Gulick brick home sheltered a house
full - Grandfather had five children - Mrs
Gulick had three and after their marriage
three more came along - a real pioneer
family. They lived there and left there
to go into homes of their own - from
1854 to 1893. - My father was the oldest son -
he could tell many stories - I wish I had
taken notes of some - He recalled the
assassination of President Lincoln -
Grandfather came home from town
the day the news came - He was
"sniffing" - a habit when agitated - He
said "Lincoln is shot and now the
country is going to Hell"! He didn't
miss it very far. My grand dad
could and did cuss like a sea captain.
He was a good horseman and rider and
a good shot with rifle or pistol. He
retained his frontier habits until his
death - that of sleeping with a Colt's revolver

under his pillow and a muzzle loader
shot gun always loaded within arm
length in the corner of the chimney wall.
The stairs began in his bed room and,
believe you me, the sons, daughters and
hard man or girl ~~with~~ very sure
he recognized them before they came
into his room on the way to bed.
I saw him guide a tree in his yard
with revolver bullets - He was then 80
years old - he fired in true western
style - incline the barrel near straight
then bring it down quickly and let
fly when sights were in line - No
painful squinting over the barrel for
his. Some later day person will cut
into that tree and wonder what
Indian battle occurred round there.
The street past the house E + W - bears the
name of Harrison Avenue but when it
was a country lane it was Sawyer's Lane.
Crooked as all early roads.

8 P.M.

It is raining again - Poor bean harvesters -
You sent Ben some soy beans - I sent him
a page from today's Review - full of texts
and cuts of soy bean fields and
machinery at work. Soy beans were
unknown when Ben & I were being
broken to farm harness 45 years ago.
Univ of Ill. lecturers at Farmers Institutes in
1900-1906 urged soy beans and cow peas -
and were laughed at - later a few beans were
put out for hay - Then Staley put in a
bean oil mill - Shellabarger followed and
then soy beans assumed importance - then
when it became known that Chinch bugs
avoided them they became life savers
now oats have nearly disappeared &
beans taking their place. They are here
to stay for time to come -
Cow peas never got a start here - No
one has tried experimenting to make
commercial products - They flourish
farther south for cow feed.

Monday Afternoon.

Rain off and on so far today. My son went over to his post on the hard road but I don't think he will be able to do much but guard the stacks of felled in trees.

Bess sent a letter to me this am. - I had ^{Em's Dictator papers} noticed the peace letter from Bertha Mae Smith. I don't know her nor location of her home.

Today's weather will hinder the patriotic program for Armistice Day.

A local scrap came on when the regular in charge of the parade refused to allow a peace parade to go along.

The papers were full of comment pro & con.

Ask Mrs Bess if she knows Robert Zink - Civil War vet, and Nabark engineer retired, now living 439 No. Leemos St - Decatur. He has the distinction of being the youngest Civil War vet. in the U.S.A. Enlisted as drummer boy at 12 years with a Missouri Regt. Reenlisted 1864 as a ^{bugler} Has 56 years in railroad service with Nabark.

I received a letter from Dunham Wright
today - he gives us information of
doubtful value on the burial place of
William Hawks sr - father of Mule Johnny -
He says in Sangamon County - Ill.
and his grand mother wife of Am sr
as near Burlington, Iowa, in the
old Miller Cemetery on Flint Creek - ^{established}
by the Hawks and Miller families who
left Decatur in 1836 for Iowa Territory.
Dunham Wright is 93 years ^{writing me} old
and had just visited the Oregon before
Legislature - Pretty good - He and
Mrs. Dadds should go together.
The air is full of patriotic programs
maybe "Vic + Sade" can break through.
I like fun in between serious periods.
Lawyer to Lillibunt

Mellikin knew Lincoln in Danville, Ill. where
M- lived before coming to Decatur. He told me
in 1900 that he had a law suit in Danville
with Lincoln as his lawyer.

Mr. Mellikin was very human to other
Macon Co. citizens - Your dad and mine knew him -
He used to go to Ed. McClallans to play poker
and his wife sometimes came for him and beat him
home Carry Nation style nearly.

He used to take whisky for snake bite, colds,
belly aches &c - and then go to his barn and make
his carriage team step around to promptings of a
raw hide whip. His stable hand gave him away.

Did I tell you the late Dr William Barnes
story about Mellikin?

Dr. A.R. Taylor - first presy of Mellikin Univ.
wrote a biography of I-M - but was disappointed
at poor sales and complained to Dr B - about it
Barnes said "Let me write a chapter and put it
in your book - I will make it sell by telling
the people what I really know about the all case."

I told Rich Biss Lawyer the story and he
laughed heartily and said "I know what Barnes was
thinking of - Mellikin's early life fondness for the ladies
and he then told me of gossip of the 1860's on
Jan Mellikin. - I today saw a new portrait of
Mellikin hanging on north wall of the bank.

You mentioned Beely Bean - I got to know him while associated with him one year on Macon County Board of Review - He had begun to show age - but when I first saw him early in 1900 he was a vigorous man - had been Sp. Supervisor and Chairman of the Co. Board President of Farmers Institute and local big man generally. Good man too.

Today our county wheat reduction committee met for instructions - Monday we met the applicants and get signatures to contracts - about Christmas we get our money from H.S. - for acre reduction.

Next comes corn acreage cut and hog cut.

It is somewhat bewildering -

I wish your leg does not improve.

Get it in running order by 1934 so you & I can visit the Chicago Fair - I saw tonight's paper says it will reopen next season.

Weather cooler - northwest wind - leaves blowing into every corner - All Central Park leaves were collected in Nott Bk.⁴ Director's doorway at 3 P.M. - My coal house is full.

Well Ben - so long. I may add to this later maybe so maybe not so - but let your letters come on -

Yours
Sawyer.

SAWYER CORRESPONDENCE

DRAWER 12

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BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JULY 1910